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14 March 1994

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 87

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/48/648)]

48/42. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling, in particular, its resolutions 47/71 and 47/72 of 14 December 1992,

Welcoming the progress made by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations during its recent sessions,

Convinced that peace-keeping operations constitute a considerable part of the efforts by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security and to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in this regard,

Recognizing that the peacemaking activities of the Secretary-General and of organs of the United Nations, which are actions to bring hostile parties to agreement essentially through peaceful means such as those foreseen in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, constitute an essential function of the United Nations and are among the important means for the prevention, containment and resolution of disputes, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security,

Emphasizing that respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any States is crucial to any common endeavour to promote international peace and security,

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Taking note of the statement by the President of the Security Council of 28 May 1993 and the recommendations contained therein, 1/

Convinced that in order to ensure the effectiveness of peace-keeping operations it is necessary that they have precise and clearly defined mandates,

Taking into account that the increase in activities in the field of United Nations peace-keeping requires both increasing and better managed human, financial and material resources for the Organization,

Aware of the extremely difficult financial situation of the United Nations as described in the report of the Secretary-General 2/ and of the heavy burden on all the troop contributors, many of which are developing countries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, 3/ having examined the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, 4/ and being aware of the relevant parts of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on staffing of the United Nations peace-keeping and related missions (civilian component), 5/

1. Welcomes the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations; 4/

Resources

2. Notes with appreciation the initiative of the Secretary-General in establishing a stand-by forces planning team and looks forward to periodic reports on that initiative;

3. Recommends that contact between the Secretariat and Member States should be enhanced with a view to clarifying the military and civilian needs for United Nations peace-keeping operations and such capabilities of Member States as could be made available for those operations;

4. Encourages Member States, to the extent that their domestic arrangements permit, to develop, in cooperation with the Secretariat, arrangements for military, police and civilian personnel to participate in peace-keeping operations and to notify the Secretary-General of the existence and the modalities of such arrangements on an ongoing basis;

1/ S/25859.

2/ A/48/503 and Add.1.

3/ A/48/1.

4/ A/48/173.

5/ A/48/421, annex.

5. Calls upon the Secretary-General to develop a proposal for regularly updated data banks recording the type and availability of resources Member States could provide, as described in paragraph 4 above, as well as individuals with skills appropriate for civilian peace-keeping duties, and invites the Secretary-General to propose such other measures as he believes necessary to meet the urgent need for timely availability of personnel qualified to serve in the full spectrum of civilian peace-keeping capacities;

6. Stresses the need for the United Nations to be given the resources commensurate with its growing responsibilities in the area of peace-keeping, particularly with regard to the resources needed for the start-up phase of such operations;

7. Takes note of the recommendations of the Secretary-General concerning the timely provision of basic peace-keeping equipment 6/ and suggests the development of a limited revolving reserve of such equipment within existing resources;

8. Invites the Secretary-General to consult in advance with Member States on their willingness to earmark certain equipment specified by the Secretary-General for immediate sale, loan or donation to the United Nations when required;

9. Encourages Member States to make available air and sea-lift resources to the United Nations at the best available rates in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

10. Requests the Secretariat to develop guidelines concerning the disposition of United Nations equipment upon the termination of a peace-keeping operation;

Finances

11. Recalls that the financing of peace-keeping operations is the collective responsibility of all Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations; notes the report of the Secretary-General on improving the financial situation of the United Nations, 2/ reiterates its call upon all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time, and encourages States to make voluntary contributions in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

12. Invites the Secretary-General to review, as appropriate, the applicable United Nations financial and administrative regulations concerning peace-keeping operations and, to that end, urges that steps be taken to strengthen lateral communication and the distribution of information within the Secretariat;

6/ See A/47/965-S/25944.

13. Requests that the Secretary-General improve the financial control mechanisms relative to peace-keeping by strengthening the system of audit and inspection, including external controls, and stresses the need to ensure that appropriate accountability is maintained and, in that regard, notes with appreciation recent steps to strengthen the capacity for independent oversight and investigation;

14. Stresses the need to delegate the appropriate degree of financial and administrative authority to Force Commanders or Special Representatives while ensuring that measures relating to responsibility and accountability are strengthened in order to increase the missions' capacity to adjust to new situations and specific requirements;

15. Notes that a number of military officers have been made available on loan on a non-reimbursable basis to the Secretariat at its request and welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement financial arrangements, within existing resources, which would enable all Member States to contribute to such a system in the future and would ease the costs borne by Member States contributing those officers;

16. Calls upon the Secretariat to prepare comprehensive budget estimates for all new and ongoing peace-keeping operations in a timely fashion in order to allow for a thorough examination by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly;

17. Stresses the importance of reimbursing all outstanding dues of troop-contributing or other participating States without delay and notes the report of the Secretary-General in that regard; 2/

18. Reaffirms the competence of the General Assembly for the appropriation and apportionment of the costs of United Nations peace-keeping operations, and notes the importance for the Security Council to be aware of, inter alia, the availability of adequate physical and material resources and the cost implications before it establishes new peace-keeping operations;

19. Considers that the issue of supplementing diversified financial resources to the assessed contributions should be studied further in all the appropriate United Nations forums;

20. Encourages the consideration in the appropriate forums of further measures that could improve the financing of peace-keeping operations, including the feasibility of an improved billing system;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to consult with Member States during his current review of the rates of reimbursement for depreciation of contingent-owned equipment deployed at the request of the United Nations;

22. Requests the Secretariat to compile all the existing financial and administrative rules, regulations, practices and procedures relating to peace-keeping into a comprehensive document available to Member States;

23. Welcomes the creation of the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund, notes the importance of adequate resources for peace-keeping start-up costs and that sufficient resources have not been made available for this purpose, stresses that the Fund should be supplied with the amount specified in General Assembly resolution 47/217 of 23 December 1992, thereby making the Fund operational as

soon as possible, and emphasizes that the Fund should, in the future, serve as an essential source of funds for peace-keeping start-up costs;

Organization and effectiveness

24. Suggests that the Security Council and the Secretary-General should continue to analyse a given situation very carefully before the establishment of a United Nations peace-keeping operation, that a realistic mandate, including clear objectives and a time-frame for the resolution of the problem, as appropriate, should be formulated in each case, conducive to the furtherance of the political process, that the Security Council should review periodically the effectiveness of current operations with a view to ensuring that they are consistent with the objectives and the mandates as approved by the Council, and affirms that no change in the mandate, character or duration of peace-keeping operations authorized by the Security Council is possible except through a specific decision of the Council;

25. Notes with appreciation the steps taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen and reform those units of the Secretariat dealing with peace-keeping, as outlined in his report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in "An Agenda for Peace"; 6/

26. Stresses the need for the Secretariat to deal effectively and efficiently with planning, launching, managing and providing administrative and logistics support to peace-keeping operations and urges the Secretary-General, as the chief administrative officer of the Organization, in consultation with Member States, to initiate a comprehensive review of the role, tasks and functions, including civilian functions, of the various units of the Secretariat with a view to identifying the optimum Secretariat structure in that respect and to assuring the unity of command and control indispensable for successful peace-keeping by assigning executive responsibility for all aspects of a peace-keeping operation to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations of the Secretariat;

27. Also stresses the importance of coordination of all aspects of the planning process in peace-keeping operations and suggests that the emergency relief coordinator should be fully consulted in the overall planning of a peace-keeping operation when the mandate for such an operation contains a humanitarian component and in other cases should be consulted at an early stage when close coordination between humanitarian and peace-keeping activities is required;

28. Takes note of the transfer of the Field Operations Division from the Department of Administration and Management to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen and make more effective planning, management and administrative support for peace-keeping operations and the capability of the Secretariat for overall evaluation and analysis of peace-keeping operations from their initial stages to their conclusion;

29. Urges the Secretary-General in his review of Secretariat capabilities to improve information flow and to enhance coordination and communication between United Nations Headquarters and field missions in order to manage peace-keeping operations effectively and inform Member States as appropriate;

30. Requests the Secretary-General to keep Member States informed on organizational responsibilities of the various units of those Secretariat departments responsible for peace-keeping operations;

31. Invites the Secretary-General to identify a focal point for contact by Member States seeking information on all facets, including operational, logistics and administrative matters, of ongoing and planned peace-keeping operations;

32. Also invites the Secretary-General to continue arrangements and procedures for providing additional personnel on a short-term basis in order to ensure that the Secretariat can respond effectively and efficiently to fluctuations in its workload, particularly when new operations are planned and launched, and to keep the Member States informed of such procedures;

33. Once again invites the Secretary-General to consider means whereby Special Representatives, Force Commanders and other key personnel of newly approved missions are identified and involved in the planning process at the earliest possible time;

34. Welcomes the establishment in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations of a 24-hour/7-day-a-week situation centre which will be equipped with appropriately standardized communication and information management systems so as to enhance the management of all peace-keeping operations and requests the Secretary-General to keep under review the efficiency and efficacy of the situation centre;

35. Also welcomes the initiative of the Secretariat in establishing a logistics doctrine and procedures project charged with developing a set of guidelines of United Nations logistics doctrine and procedures in order to standardize logistics practices and procedures and thereby enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of logistics support to peace-keeping operations;

36. Requests the Secretary-General to consider, in the ongoing restructuring of the Secretariat, the inclusion of a logistics planning capability in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations which would consider all aspects of support required for peace-keeping operations;

37. Stresses that the conclusion of a status-of-forces agreement between the United Nations and a host State is of the utmost importance when deploying peace-keeping operations and calls upon host States to give their fullest cooperation in that regard, and recommends that after the establishment of a peace-keeping operation by the Security Council the concerned Member States should cooperate fully with the operation in the implementation of its mandate;

38. Requests the Secretary-General to include in the status-of-forces agreement between the United Nations and host States requirements for host States to treat United Nations peace-keeping forces at all times with full respect for the principles and relevant Articles of the Charter, for United Nations peace-keeping forces to respect local laws and regulations and for both parties to such an agreement to act at all times in accordance with the provisions of the status-of-forces agreement and the principles and relevant Articles of the Charter;

39. Notes the importance of concluding arrangements between the United Nations and troop contributors before deployment occurs and urges implementation of the agreements along the lines of the model agreement outlined in the report of the Secretary-General of 23 May 1991; 7/

40. Also requests the Secretary-General to include, in the agreements to be concluded with States providing contingents, a clause by which those States would ensure that the members of their contingents serving in United Nations peace-keeping operations were fully acquainted with the principles and rules of relevant international law, in particular international humanitarian law and the purposes and principles of the Charter;

41. Stresses the importance of the institution of appropriate rules of engagement, on a case-by-case basis, for all United Nations peace-keeping operations;

42. Notes the recent increase in the number of peace-keeping operations, and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a detailed report on operations that have significant difficulties in implementing their mandates by highlighting the root causes of such difficulties and suggesting possible measures to address them;

43. Requests the Secretary-General, once again, to report periodically to Member States on the performance of all peace-keeping operations;

44. Welcomes the increasingly frequent informal consultations between the Secretariat and contributing States, strongly recommends the continuation of such consultations on peace-keeping operations from their initial stages to their conclusion and strongly encourages the presence of the President of the Security Council and other members of the Council, as appropriate, at such consultations;

45. Recognizes that the training of peace-keeping personnel is primarily the responsibility of Member States;

46. Also welcomes the establishment of a focal point for peace-keeping training in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and recommends that the focal point act as the coordinating centre for the relationship between the United Nations and national and regional training facilities;

47. Requests the Secretary-General to review and improve arrangements for training civilian, police and military peace-keeping personnel, using the appropriate capabilities of Member States, regional organizations and arrangements, in accordance with their constitutional mandates and Chapter VIII of the Charter, and of non-governmental organizations and the Secretariat;

48. Acknowledges the increasing challenge of forging large and cohesive peace-keeping missions from many and diverse contingents, stresses the need for the effective training of civilian, police and military personnel before deployment and, in that regard, urges the Secretary-General to develop,

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7/ A/46/185 and Corr.1, annex.

in consultation with Member States, official United Nations guidelines combined with performance goals for individuals and units, so that peace-keepers can be trained within a national framework in accordance with agreed-upon common standards, skills, practices and procedures;

49. Also requests the Secretary-General to develop and publish peace-keeping training guidelines, manuals and other relevant training material, including material for correspondence instruction, in order to assist Member States in preparing their civilian, police and military personnel for peace-keeping operations in a standardized and cost-effective manner;

50. Further requests the Secretary-General, in close consultation with Member States, to initiate, within resources which may be allocated for training purposes, a trial programme designed to train national peace-keeping trainers as a supplement to national training programmes, as well as to develop a proposal to strengthen the leadership cadre available for peace-keeping by training potential Force Commanders and senior military and civilian personnel for peace-keeping leadership and management duties;

51. Recommends that training for peace-keeping operations should, as appropriate, be included in the training of those military, civilian and police personnel being sent on peace-keeping operations and encourages Member States that have already developed such training to share information and experience with other Member States;

52. Strongly recommends that peace-keeping operations personnel be made generally aware of relevant local laws and customs of the host State and of the importance of respecting them;

53. Encourages troop contributors to consider arrangements between themselves for the loan and/or exchange of peace-keeping operations experts to enhance operational effectiveness through sharing of information and experience gained in peace-keeping operations;

54. Once again requests the Secretary-General to consider establishing a training programme for key staff personnel of peace-keeping operations with a view to creating a pool of trained personnel with knowledge of the United Nations system and its working procedures;

55. Recognizes that public information on peace-keeping operations, particularly an understanding of their mandates, is important and calls for significant enhancement of the press and public information function for peace-keeping missions and in particular for rapid deployment at the start of a peace-keeping operation of a robust and professional media outreach programme in the area of operation commensurate with the scope and needs of the missions;

56. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to establish guidelines for the public information function of peace-keeping operations;

57. Requests the Secretariat immediately to make all necessary arrangements for the reissue of The Blue Helmets 8/ in 1995;

8/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.I.18.

58. Also requests the Secretariat to take the appropriate steps to record, in a dignified and yet simple manner in a public area of the United Nations Headquarters, the names of those who have given their lives in the service of United Nations peace-keeping operations;

59. Welcomes the intention of the Secretariat to establish a memorial dedicated to those peace-keepers who have given their lives in the service of peace;

Issues arising from "An Agenda for Peace"

60. Recalls its resolutions 47/120 A of 18 December 1992 and 47/120 B of 20 September 1993 and takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in "An Agenda for Peace", 6/ welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps through preventive diplomacy and, recognizing the need for those steps to be based on timely and accurate knowledge of relevant facts, encourages the Secretary-General to strengthen the capability of the Secretariat to secure and analyse all relevant information from as wide a variety of sources as possible in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, urges Member States to assist the Secretary-General in this regard and requests the Secretary-General to keep the Member States regularly informed of such capabilities and mechanisms;

61. Reaffirms its resolution 47/120 B, in particular section II, entitled "Preventive deployment and demilitarized zones", and, in this context, recalls the importance of considering, on a case-by-case basis, the use of preventive deployment and/or the establishment of demilitarized zones as a means to prevent existing or potential disputes from escalating into conflicts and to promote efforts to achieve the peaceful settlement of such disputes, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security;

62. Encourages, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, the involvement of Member States through regional organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, in accordance with their respective areas of competence and the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

63. Welcomes efforts by the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with Member States, a set of guidelines governing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations;

64. Takes note of the existing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular in the area of peace-keeping;

65. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, to consider ways to provide advice and assistance, in a variety of forms such as advisory services, seminars and conferences, to regional organizations and arrangements in their respective areas of competence, so as to enhance their capacity to cooperate with the United Nations in the field of peace-keeping operations;

66. Resolves to continue consideration of these items;

Status and safety of United Nations peace-keeping personnel

67. Urges all Member States in whose territory United Nations peace-keeping operations are conducted to provide, in accordance with relevant Articles of the Charter and other instruments, comprehensive support to all United Nations peace-keeping operations personnel in fulfilling their functions, as well as to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for and guarantee the safety and security of those personnel;

68. Considers that any State in whose territory a United Nations peace-keeping operation is conducted should act promptly to deter and prosecute all those responsible for attacks and other acts of violence against all personnel of United Nations peace-keeping operations;

69. Notes the particular difficulties and dangers that can arise when United Nations peace-keeping operations are conducted in situations where no authority exercises jurisdiction or discharges responsibilities with regard to ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel and in such an eventuality agrees that measures appropriate to the particular circumstances and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations should be considered by the Security Council and other appropriate bodies of the United Nations;

70. Emphasizes the importance of all relevant information on conditions in the field of operations for the safety of United Nations peace-keepers and invites the Secretariat to adopt measures to secure and analyse such information from as wide a variety of sources as possible for immediate transmission to field missions;

71. Considers that it is the responsibility of host countries to disseminate to their populations necessary information on the role of peace-keeping operations and the inviolability of the safety of peace-keepers, including the information the United Nations may make available for that purpose;

72. Also considers that host countries are required to provide all available information in a timely manner to the United Nations and the respective peace-keeping missions in the field on any potential dangers that might jeopardize the safety of the peace-keepers, and that that requirement should be clearly specified in the status-of-forces agreements;

73. Urges the Secretary-General to review the current arrangements of compensation for death, injury, disability or illness attributable to peace-keeping service with a view to developing equitable and appropriate arrangements, and to ensure expeditious reimbursement;

74. Recognizes that conditions in the field require practical steps aimed at enhancing the necessary operational, political and legal environment to deal effectively with the problem of the growing vulnerability of United Nations operations personnel deployed in the field;

75. Requests the Secretary-General to take concrete steps to improve the physical security of all United Nations peace-keeping personnel deployed

in the field, including all aspects related to material, organizational, operational and other aspects of safety;

76. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on current measures and new proposals to ensure and enhance the security of United Nations operations, 9/ and will consider what further steps might be taken to enhance their status and safety, taking into account the need for concerted action by all relevant bodies of the United Nations, and in that context welcomes resolution 868 (1993) adopted by the Security Council on 29 September 1993, in which connection the General Assembly:

(a) Will give consideration to promoting the elaboration of a declaration that would, inter alia, reaffirm the principles of international law and the obligations of Member States concerning the status and safety of United Nations personnel;

(b) Calls upon the Security Council to include in mandates for the deployment of United Nations personnel, specific provisions recalling the obligations of Member States and the expectations of the United Nations concerning the status and safety of United Nations personnel;

(c) Notes that a legally binding international instrument to reinforce the existing arrangements regarding the status and safety of United Nations personnel is being considered by the Sixth Committee;

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77. Recommends that, should any of the proposals contained in the present resolution result in budgetary implications for the biennium 1994-1995, such additional costs should be accommodated within the appropriation level approved by the General Assembly for this biennium;

78. Decides that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects;

79. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that full conference services, including translation of official documents and simultaneous translation into all official languages, are provided to the Special Committee and its working group whenever they meet, normally for up to one month in April and May;

80. Requests the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

81. Invites Member States to submit further observations and suggestions on peace-keeping operations to the Secretary-General by 1 March 1994, outlining practical proposals on specific items in order to allow for more detailed consideration by the Special Committee;

82. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, a compilation of the above-mentioned observations and suggestions and to submit it to the Special Committee by 30 March 1994;

9/ A/48/349-S/26358.

83. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects".

75th plenary meeting
10 December 1993

UNITED NATIONS

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A/RES/48/43
17 March 1994

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 87

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/48/648)]

48/43. Strengthening United Nations command and control capabilities

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, 1/

Taking into account the rapid growth in the number, size, complexity and cost of United Nations peace-keeping operations,

Noting the proposals put forward by the Secretary-General in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for a strengthening of the peace-keeping capabilities in the Secretariat as well as his initiative to establish a stand-by forces planning team,

Aware of the need to strengthen the capability of the United Nations to plan, conduct and coordinate its peace-keeping operations and of the need for extending and deepening ongoing consultations between the Secretary-General and troop-contributing States concerning specific peace-keeping operations and to involve more closely the members of the Security Council in such consultations,

1. Stresses the need to strengthen the capabilities of the Secretariat for the operational management, command and control of peace-keeping operations based on unity of instruction and clearly established lines

1/ A/48/173.

of command in such operations, including a fully staffed and equipped situation centre covering all peace-keeping operations;

2. Calls upon the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the members of the Security Council, troop-contributing States and other interested Member States:

(a) To review thoroughly and take urgent steps to strengthen present arrangements for political direction, military command and control and to improve coordination with humanitarian and civilian aspects of peace-keeping operations, both at United Nations Headquarters and in the field;

(b) To strengthen existing arrangements for consultation and exchange of information at an early stage between the Secretary-General and troop-contributing countries and to hold such consultations in the presence of members of the Security Council, as appropriate, for the planning, management and coordination of peace-keeping operations;

(c) To report to Member States on the steps taken under subparagraphs (a) and (b) above, before the next session of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

75th plenary meeting
10 December 1993

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General Assembly

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A/RES/48/44
3 March 1994

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 88

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/48/649)]

48/44. Questions relating to information

A

Information in the service of humanity

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information, 1/

Also taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information, 2/

Urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, recognizing

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/48/21).

2/ A/48/407.

the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process":

(a) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(b) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(c) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(d) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communication capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communication technology in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(e) To aim, in addition to bilateral cooperation, at providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already taken within the United Nations system, including:

(i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communication systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;

(iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by the developing countries to advanced communication technology available on the open market;

(f) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication 3/ of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media.

75th plenary meeting
10 December 1993

B

United Nations public information policies and activities

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its primary role in elaborating, coordinating and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information,

Also reaffirming that the Secretary-General should ensure that the activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, as the focal point of the public information tasks of the United Nations, are strengthened and improved, keeping in view the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the priority areas defined by the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information,

Taking note of all reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session,

1. Decides to consolidate the role of the Committee on Information as its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations relating to the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat;

2. Calls upon the Secretary-General, in respect of United Nations public information policies and activities, to implement the following recommendations in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and in this regard to ensure that the Department of Public Information:

(a) Continues to disseminate information about the activities of the United Nations in coordination with the information services of other relevant agencies in accordance with the United Nations medium-term plan, the programme budget and their relevant revisions, pertaining, inter alia, to:

(i) International peace and security;

(ii) Disarmament;

(iii) Peace-keeping operations and peacemaking;

(iv) Decolonization and the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the light of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

3/ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Records of the General Conference, Twenty-first Session, vol. I, Resolutions, sect. III.4, resolution 4/21.

(v) The promotion and protection of human rights and in that context the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993;

(vi) The elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

(vii) The advancement of the status of women and their role in society;

(viii) The promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; 4/

(ix) Problems of economic and social development, as well as international economic cooperation aimed at resolving external debt problems;

(x) The least developed countries;

(xi) The environment and development;

(xii) The elimination of foreign occupation;

(xiii) The campaign against terrorism in all its forms in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/61 of 9 December 1985;

(xiv) International efforts against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking;

(xv) Crime prevention and criminal justice;

(xvi) Support for the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s 5/ and for the tremendous efforts of the African countries aimed at recovery and development, as well as the positive response by the international community to alleviate the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa;

(xvii) International efforts towards the total eradication of apartheid and support for the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa and, where necessary, the role of the United Nations in this context;

(xviii) United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine in particular, also including current developments in that region and the ongoing peace process;

(b) Provides the necessary level of information support for the activities of the United Nations in situations requiring immediate and special response;

(c) Continues its efforts at promoting an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations system among the peoples of the

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4/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

5/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect.II.

world and at strengthening the positive image of the system as a whole;

(d) Continues its briefings, assistance and orientation programmes for broadcasters, journalists and other media professionals from developing countries focused on United Nations-related issues;

(e) Provides, on the basis of its activities, information to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization about new forms of cooperation, at the regional and subregional levels, for the training of media professionals and for the improvement of the information and communication infrastructures of developing countries;

(f) Continues its policies of cooperation with all agencies of the United Nations system, in particular with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(g) Continues its policies of cooperation with the news agencies in and of the developing countries, in particular the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries;

3. Welcomes the decision by the Department of Public Information to establish a task force to look into the allocation of office space to the media at United Nations Headquarters;

4. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the continuous and major publications of the Department of Public Information 6/ and urges all efforts to ensure timely production and dissemination of its major publications, in particular the UN Chronicle, the Yearbook of the United Nations and Africa Recovery, maintaining consistent editorial independence and accuracy, taking necessary measures to ensure that its output contains adequate, objective and equitable information about issues before the Organization, reflecting divergent opinions wherever they occur;

5. Expresses regret at the circumstances leading to the discontinuation of Development Forum, and encourages the Secretary-General to suggest ways and means to revive this publication, which has continued to receive a mandate of the General Assembly, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information;

6. Requests the management of the Department of Public Information to review the Department's publications and proposals for publications to ensure that all publications fulfil an identifiable need, that they do not duplicate other publications inside or outside the United Nations system, and that they are produced in a cost-effective manner, and to report to the Committee on Information at its sixteenth substantive session;

7. Reaffirms the importance attached by Member States to the role of United Nations information centres in effectively and comprehensively disseminating information about United Nations activities and the optimization of the resources allocated to the Department of Public Information;

6/ A/AC.198/1993/5.

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its sixteenth session for the purpose of evaluating the need for any subsequent integration, the results of the current trial of integrating eighteen United Nations information centres with field offices of the United Nations Development Programme, as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General, 7/ as well as the views of the host countries, bearing in mind the concerns of Member States that the integration of the United Nations information centres with the United Nations offices could adversely affect their functions in the developing countries;

9. Reaffirms the role of the General Assembly in relation to the opening of new United Nations information centres and invites the Secretary-General, as well, to make such recommendations as he may judge necessary regarding the establishment and location of these centres;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that his proposals relating to the structure, functions and activities of the seven United Nations interim offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan fully comply with the mandates of the relevant General Assembly resolutions pertaining to operational activities and dissemination of information, taking into account the observations and recommendations in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 8/ General Assembly decision 47/469 of 6 May 1993 and relevant General Assembly resolutions, especially resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992;

11. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the allocation of resources to the United Nations information centres in 1992 9/ and would appreciate information on the status of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as a detailed breakdown of resource deployment between centres and, while welcoming the action by some Governments with regard to the financial and material support for United Nations information centres in their respective capitals, calls upon the Secretary-General to study ways and means to rationalize and effect equitable disbursement of available resources to all United Nations information centres and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its sixteenth substantive session;

12. Notes the substantial contribution by the Government of Poland and requests the Secretary-General to continue to consult with the Polish authorities, with a view to finalizing arrangements for a United Nations information component at Warsaw;

13. Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the enhancing, reactivation and establishment of United Nations information centres 10/ and again calls upon the Secretary-General to implement fully and expeditiously the recommendation contained in paragraph 10 of its resolution 47/73 B of 14 December 1992 regarding the establishment of an information

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7/ A/AC.198/1993/7.

8/ A/47/7/Add.16.

9/ A/AC.198/1993/6.

10/ A/AC.198/1993/9.

centre at Sana'a; the reactivation of the information centre at Tehran; the enhancement of the information centres at Bujumbura; Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania; and Dhaka; and to submit the implementation report to the Committee on Information at its sixteenth substantive session;

14. Calls upon the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the aforementioned recommendation to the sixteenth session of the Committee on Information;

15. Welcomes of the report of the Secretary-General and encourages continued enhanced cooperation between the Department of Public Information and the University for Peace in Costa Rica as a focal point for promoting United Nations activities and disseminating United Nations information materials; 11/

16. Takes note of the requests by Bulgaria, Gabon, Haiti and Slovakia for information components;

17. Expresses full support to the wide and prompt coverage of United Nations activities through a continuation of United Nations press releases;

18. Calls upon the Secretary-General to enhance the efficiency of regional radio units in the Department of Public Information;

19. Also calls upon the Secretary-General to make every effort to create conditions more conducive to achieving parity in the press coverage of meetings in English and French by appropriate utilization of existing equipment;

20. Takes note of the recommendations and observations by Member States contained in the report of the Secretary-General 12/ and invites Member States that wish to do so to submit their observations and suggestions to the Secretary-General by 1 January 1994, on ways and means of furthering the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with a view to consolidating recent experience in the field of international cooperation aimed at enabling them to develop their own information and communication capacities freely and independently, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its sixteenth session;

21. Recommends, in order to facilitate continued contact between the Department of Public Information and the Committee on Information between sessions, that the Bureau of the Committee on Information, together with representatives of each regional group, the Group of Seventy-seven and China, in close contact with members of the Committee, should meet, as required, and consult at periodic intervals with representatives of the Department;

22. Supports decision 5 of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, requesting the Secretary-General to develop and launch, on a priority basis, in cooperation with relevant specialized

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11/ Ibid., paras. 17 and 18.

12/ A/AC.198/1993/2 and Add.1.

agencies, funds and programmes, a specific programme of public information on the core issues of the Summit as well as on its objectives;

23. Also supports the decision of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held at Cairo in 1994, requesting the Secretary-General, in cooperation with competent United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, to develop and launch, on a priority basis, a coordinated public information programme;

24. Takes note of the request by Belarus and Ukraine to consider the development and implementation of a system-wide programme for the tenth anniversary in 1996 of the Chernobyl disaster;

25. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its sixteenth session in 1994 and to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session in 1994, on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution;

26. Decides that the next session of the Committee on Information should last twelve working days and invites the Bureau of the Committee to explore ways and means of making optimum use of the Committee's time;

27. Requests the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

28. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

75th plenary meeting
10 December 1993